

It is obvious to remark that congregations which do not give even \$200 may show very great liberality in proportion to their means. Still, it is satisfactory to see our wealthy churches stepping gallantly to the front.

It may not be amiss to notice that one church in New York, that of which Dr. Paxton was pastor prior to his acceptance of a Princeton professorship, gave last year to the "schemes" of our sister Church the sum of \$68,336, or nearly tenfold the amount given by the largest contributing congregation in Canada. What is specially commendable in this congregation is that it gave \$8 to missions and benevolence for every \$1 expended upon itself. The average contribution per communicant was \$350. The church of which Dr. John Hall is pastor contributed over \$60,000 for the "schemes of the Church."

The number of communicants reported in our Church is 119,608. But the returns are still far from complete and accurate. The number of families, 69,507. There are connected nominally with our Church thousands of families not yet reported; not yet included in any of our congregations or stations receiving regular services from ministers or catechists. One of the uses of the study of these figures will be to stir up our zeal on behalf of our scattered and lonely members, who are as sheep without a shepherd. We have given enough figures to whet the reader's appetite for the volume before us. If you have not received a copy, borrow one from your district elder. One copy might serve a dozen families. We should like to hear that every minister in the Church took an opportunity of giving his congregation a *résumé* of the contents of this most interesting volume; even if it took him three or four Wednesday evenings to do it, it would pay for the trouble of boiling it down in the increased interest which his people would be sure to take in the affairs of the Church in general, and in the progress of missions at home and abroad in particular.

### SYNOD OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

THIS SYNOD met in Fort Massey Church, Halifax, on the 9th of October. Principal MacKnight preached the opening sermon and constituted the Synod. Rev. Dr. Burns was elected Moderator. The report of the Hunter Church Building Fund showed that in seven years the sum of \$7,796 has been given in free grants to aid weak congregations in building; free loans, \$13,300; loans on interest, \$7,600. The capital of the Fund has not been trenced upon. About forty congregations have already

some benefit from the Fund. The Synod has for twenty years supported three Professors in Dalhousie College, paying \$4,500 a year in salaries; it was resolved to ask the Governors of the college to relieve the Synod in whole or in part from this burden. Full power was granted to our Presbyterian College Board to conclude any arrangements with the Dalhousie Governors that may be mutually satisfactory. It appeared from the Finance Committee's report that the Endowment Fund amounts to \$71,025. It is hoped that at least \$4,000 additional will be collected. The Ministers', Widows' and Orphans' Fund (Eastern Section) is in a very safe and prosperous condition. The capital will soon reach \$60,000. Now is the time for ministers not yet on the fund, to join. The Supplementing Fund was discussed with much earnestness. It was resolved to make an immediate effort to level up all ministerial salaries to \$600 with manse, and to aim ultimately at \$750 with manse. The whole subject was recommended to the early attention of Presbyteries. It was recommended to the Supplementing Committee to use their endeavours to put in operation the scheme of augmentation given on page 305, appendix of the Assembly Minutes, 1883. Presbyteries reported a general advance in the contributions of the people both in regularity and amount. On Wednesday evening the state of religion was discussed first, and then Sabbath-schools. With regard to both there was much to encourage, much to stimulate effort; and also something to deplore. On Thursday evening the topic was FOREIGN MISSIONS. The audience was large, and addresses were given by Rev. H. A. Robertson of Eromanga, Rev. Thomas Christie, late of Couva, Trinidad, and Rev. John Morton, now of Tunapuna, Trinidad. Great interest was manifested in all the addresses. Dr. McGregor announced that Mr. J. Knox Wright, of Ontario, had been accepted by the Board as successor to Mr. Christie at Couva. The Board is also prepared to advertise for a missionary to the coolies in Demarara, half the salary to be provided in Demarara, and the other half by the Western Section of our Church. Mr. Crum Ewing has applied to our Church for a missionary to labour among the coolies on his estates, he himself to pay the whole salary. Thus there is a call for two more missionaries to the West Indies. The news from the New Hebrides, just received from Mr. Annand, are also highly encouraging. New islands are being occupied, and there is a general advance in the older stations.

The next meeting of Synod will be held in Knox Church, Pictou, on the second Tuesday of October, 1884.